(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Consumer Goods

566. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a part of liberalised trade policy restriction on import of consumer goods are being removed in a phased manner; and

(b) if so, the item-wise names of these consumer items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The items in India's plan for the removal of residual quantitative restrictions on imports, in the phased manner, in respect of which import restrictions are maintained for balance of payments purposes include raw materials, components, capital goods and consumer goods, covering agricultural, textiles and industrial goods, such as vegetables and fruits, marine products, dairy products, processed foods, yarns and fabric, made-ups, chemicals and fertilizers, cosmetics, footwear, headgear and the like, gems and jewellery, metals and metal manufactures, mechanical and electric machinery, appliances, and instruments, and automotives.

Property Right Act

567. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to protect farmer's right in intellectual Property Right Act; and

(b) if so, please state legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Farmers' rights have been protected in the draft of the Plant Variety Protection and Farmers' Rights Bill, 1997.

[Translation]

Items in Wholesale and Consumer Price Index

568. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a big difference in the number of items selected for wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index in the country;

(b) if so, the number of items selected for these Indices, Index-wise;

(c) the consumer's standard on which these items were selected keeping in view of their use; and

(d) the percentage of these consumers to the total population of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) There are 447 items included in the Wholesale Price Index whereas in the CPI(IW) the number is 260 for commodities and services. The CPI is constructed based on family budget survey of industrial workers; whereas Wholesale Price Index reflects the wholesale prices of selected traded goods in the economy. The difference between WPI series and the CPI series arises on account of distinct objectives that each of the two series is required to serve.

Wholesale and Consumer Price Indices

569. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is vast gap between Wholesale Price Index and the Consumer Price Index;

(b) if so, the position of the above indices in the last week of September, 1997;

(c) the reason for such a vast gap between these two indices;

(d) whether the Government propose to take any steps to abridge this gap; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Wholesale Price Index monitors the wholesale prices of selected traded goods in the economy whereas Consumer Price Index (IW) reflects the retail prices of a basket of commodities and selected services consumed by the Industrial Workers. The two series reflect movements in prices of different basket of commodities. The WI is computed weekly while CPI is computed month-wise. WPI (based 1981–82) stood at 329.1 (P) in the last week of September, 97, the CPI (IW) (1982=100) was 361 in September, 1997.

(c), (d) and (e) The two price indices reflect movements in prices of different basket of commodities and therefore are not strictly comparable.